

Message Text

SECRET

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53

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P R 281030Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4217

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T AMMAN 2031

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, UNRWA, JO, XF

SUBJECT: UNRWA DEFICIT

REF: (A) BEIRUT 3871 (B) AMMAN 2027

1. JUST SEEN BEIRUT TEL (REF A) WHICH OBVIOUSLY REFLECTS COMPLETELY CONTRARY IMPRESSION OF EVENTS AT ARAB FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING TO WHAT RIFAI TOLD ME AS REPORTED REF B. COMPLETELY POSSIBLE RIFAI DID NOT TOUCH BASE WITH TAKLA IN HIS SOUNDINGS; PERHAPS BECAUSE I PASSED ON TO HIM JUST BEFORE HE LEFT FOR CAIRO AMBASSADOR GODLEY'S HELPFUL REPORT OF TAKLA'S FULL SUPPORT. ALTERNATIVELY RIFAI COULD BE MUCH MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN SITUATION WARRANTS. WE TEND TO DISCOUNT LATTER AS HE VOLUNTEERED INFORMATION IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION AS PERSONAL TRIUMPH, TINGED WITH NOTE OF REGRET THAT HE WAS NOT ABLE TO GET WHOLE DEAL FORMALLY WRAPPED UP.

2. WE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO EMBASSY BEIRUT PASSING ON TO TAKLA SUBSTANCE OF RIFAI'S REPORT THAT HE FOUND NO RPT NO OBJECTIONS AMONG NUMBER OF IMPORTANT ARAB STATES TO HIS
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PROPOSAL AND THAT HE IS EXPECTING TO TAKE FOLLOW UP ACTION IN

ANY RECONVENED MEETING. THIS MIGHT FORM POSSIBLE BASIS FOR
GOL FOLLOW UP DIRECTLY WITH GOJ WITHOUT REFERENCE TO US.
NEW GOJ AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT HAS REASONABLY GOOD CONTACTS
HERE AND SEEMS ENTHUSIASTIC. THIS MIGHT HELP TO DISPELL
GLOOM IN TAKLA'S MIND WHICH WE SUSPECT HAS ALSO PROBABLY
BEEN PASSED ON TO RENNIE.

3. FURTHER, IF BEIRUT HAS NO OBJECTION, I CAN QUIETLY
ENCOURAGE RIFAI TO TALK TO LEBANESE WHO SEEM TO BE "OUT OF
TOUCH" WITH HIS CAIRO ENDEAVORS.
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

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